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Letter dated 31 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my letter of 15 March 2004 (S/2004/204), I have the honour to transmit to you the following additional information on the terrorist attacks committed in Madrid on 11 March 2004.

Based on questioning and the information received to date, the following provisional conclusions have been reached:

- The attacks were committed by radical Islamist elements.
- The communications claiming credit for the attacks refer to the concept of an international jihad.
- Many of those arrested are Moroccans and are being investigated for possible links with individuals now in prison in Morocco in connection with the terrorist attacks in Casablanca in 2003. For that reason, with the collaboration of the Moroccan police, an investigation is being conducted into possible ties between some of those arrested and the terrorist organization known as the Moroccan Islamic Combat Group.
- Some of those arrested have a history as Islamist radicals, although up to now they have not openly advocated the committing of terrorist attacks in Western countries.
- Some of those arrested have police records for common crimes, and it has been determined that some other individuals whose whereabouts are currently unknown and who appear to have taken part in preparing and carrying out the attacks are involved in drug trafficking.
- The police investigation is ongoing, and the Spanish police authorities are processing the relevant international arrest warrants.

As I said in my earlier letter, the facts immediately available at the time led the police authorities and, as you are aware, nearly all the political elements in the country to draw a conclusion about who was responsible for the actions that was not borne out by the facts that emerged later. On that basis Spain submitted a petition to the Security Council, which was formulated in the hours immediately following the attack and which I now regret.

I will keep the Council informed on developments in the case.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**

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